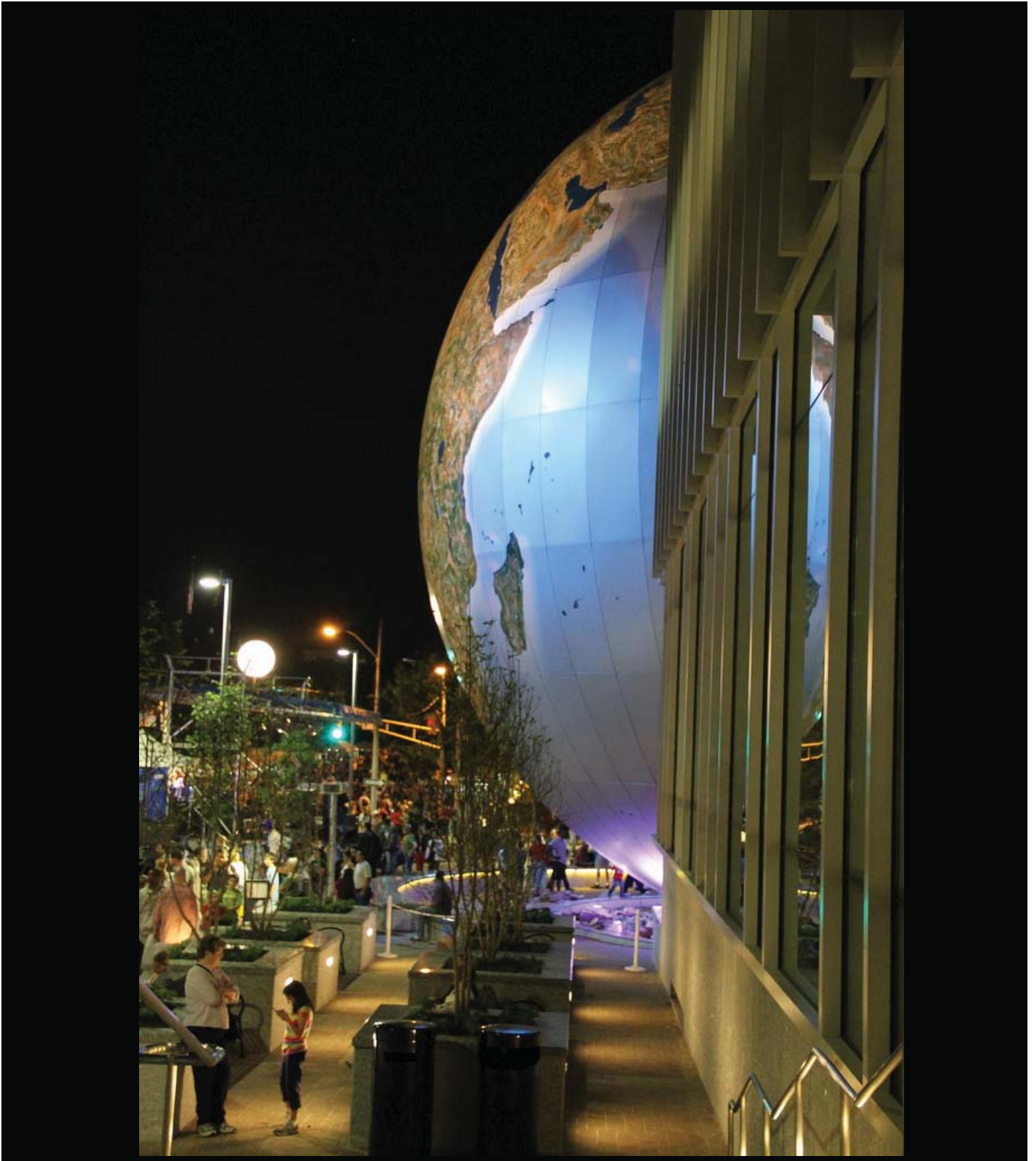


North Carolina



*Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012*

About the Cover Photo

Thousands of people, including those seen here, visited downtown Raleigh in April 2012 for the grand opening of the Nature Research Center (NRC) – the new wing of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. The NRC, with its iconic Daily Planet (the large globe pictured), brings research scientists and their work into the public eye, helps demystify an often intimidating field of study, better prepares science educators and students and inspires a new generation of young scientists. The new wing opened after a successful public/private capital campaign.

The Museum of Natural Sciences, founded in 1879 by the North Carolina General Assembly, is the largest museum of its kind in the Southeast. The museum, which received more than 1 million visitors in 2012, brings science to the people, locally and globally, inspiring creative thinkers and innovators. The main museum opened in 2000. In fiscal year 2012, the museum received nearly \$1 million in competitive research grants.

Photo courtesy of NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources